

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
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P 282119Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY
INFO DOD PRIORITY
CIA PRIORITY
NSC PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 044115

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 25

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING,
FEBRUARY 25, BEGINNING WITH A VOLUNTEERED STATEMENT BY
SPOKESMAN:

2. WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC,
WHICH REPRESENTS OUR INTERESTS IN UGANDA, AND WITH OTHERS,
WITH THE AIM OF INSURING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE
AMERICANS STILL RESIDENT THERE. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY
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240 AMERICANS STILL IN UGANDA. MOST OF THEM ARE MISSION-
AIRES. THAT INCLUDES THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEY --

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHICH FAITHS?

A: I UNDERSTAND THEY ARE PREDOMINANTLY PROTESTANT FAITHS
RATHER THAN CATHOLIC, BUT I DO NOT HAVE A BREAKDOWN BY --

Q: -- THERE'S CONFUSION ON THAT. THE FIGURE OF 239 DATES
FROM EARLY 1976, ACCORDING TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN DESK

UPSTAIRS; AND SINCE ENTEBBE, 100 OR SO HAVE LEFT --

Q: -- WHICH WOULD BRING IT DOWN SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 150 AND 175. I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THERE ARE TWO FIGURES COMING FROM THIS POINT.

A: YES. WE ARE ENDEAVORING THROUGH THE FRG TO CLARIFY THE FIGURES REGARDING THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS STILL IN UGANDA AND, AS YOU POINT OUT, THERE IS SOME DISPARITY. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CLARIFY THAT RIGHT NOW.

Q: FRED, ALSO THE INFORMATION THAT WE GOT FROM THE DESK IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS IS IT'S PRIMARILY CATHOLIC.

A: THAT IS THE OPPOSITE FROM WHAT I RECEIVED. LET ME CLARIFY THAT POINT, O.K.?

AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, CALLED IN THE ACTING UGANDAN CHARGE, MR. PAUL C. CHEPKWURUI THIS MORNING. MR. PAUL CHEPKWURUI CAME IN THIS MORNING, AND AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE EXPRESSED STRONGEST U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF THE UGANDAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ALL AMERICANS RESIDENT IN UGANDA ARE SUMMONED TO A MEETING IN KAMPALA FEBRUARY 28TH, AND THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE UGANDA BEFORE THAT TIME.

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THE MEETING LASTED ABOUT TEN MINUTES.

Q: WHAT TIME WAS IT?

A: IT WAS AT 9:30.

Q: DID HE EXPLAIN -- DID CHEPKWURUI, OR WHATEVER, EXPLAIN WHY THIS MEASURE WAS TAKEN?

A: I HAVE NO INDICATION OF A REACTION FROM THE ACTING CHARGE.

QUESTIONS ON UGANDA?

Q: DID MR. SCHAUFELLE ADDRESS THE CHARGES OF AN IMMINENT AMERICAN MARINE INVASION OF UGANDA?

A: I THINK I ADDRESSED THAT YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE.

Q: NO, BUT I WONDER IF MR. CHEPKWURUI WOULD HAVE TO BRING THOSE TIDINGS BACK. DID MR. SCHAUFELLE TELL HIM?

A: I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q: HE DIDN'T SPEAK TO HIM ABOUT IT AT ALL? OR YOU DON'T KNOW?

A: I FEEL SURE THAT IF THE SUBJECT AROSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED IN THE SAME FASHION THAT I DESCRIBED IT IN TERMS OF IMMINENT AMERICAN INVASION.

Q: FRED, A MAN AT THE UGANDAN EMBASSY -- NOT THIS MAN --

A: YES.

Q: -- BUT ANOTHER MAN -- WHO SAID THAT HE CAME TO SEE MR. UNCLASSIFIED

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SCHAUFLE -- THERE'S SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE NAME ANYWAY -- SAYS THAT HE TOLD SCHAUFLE THAT AMIN SAYS HE'S ONLY CALLING THE AMERICANS TOGETHER TO REASSURE THEM, TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO DANGER AND THAT THEY CAN LEAVE AFTER MONDAY WHENEVER THEY WANT, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD LIKE THEM TO STAY.

IS THAT AN ACCURATE SUMMARY OF WHAT HE WAS TOLD?

A: I DO NOT KNOW WHAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE WAS TOLD THIS MORNING, JIM. I CAN ONLY TELL YOU --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT YOU COULD SHARE WITH US THAT ANY OF THESE PEOPLES LIVES ARE ACTUALLY IN DANGER?

A: I CANNOT CITE ANY EVIDENCE. I CAN ONLY CITE OUR REPORTS FROM RECENT WEEKS, AND CERTAINLY WELL BEFORE THAT, WITH REGARD TO EVENTS IN UGANDA AS THE BASIS FOR OUR CONCERNS.

Q: IS THAT THE WAY HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT? IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID?

A: STRONGEST CONCERNS.

Q: DID HE ASK THE UGANDANS TO PERMIT THOSE AMERICANS WHO WANTED TO LEAVE TO LEAVE?

A: I HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS ON WHAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE TOLD THE ACTING CHARGE THIS MORNING.

Q: FRED, WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN TERMS OF WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING TO AMERICANS IN UGANDA RECENTLY, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION THAT'S BEEN TRANSMITTED BY THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS OUT OF YOUR SOURCES IN UGANDA? UNCLASSIFIED

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A: WE HAVE BEEN GETTING SOME INFORMATION FROM THE FRG, FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN KAMPALA. I DO NOT HAVE THOSE DETAILS OF WHAT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO US THROUGH THE GERMANS.

Q: YOU HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHETHER AMERICANS IN UGANDA HAVE BEEN UNDER ANY PRESSURE, WHETHER THEY HAVE FELT PHYSICALLY ENDANGERED -- NOTHING AT ALL?

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THAT.

Q: WAS THERE NOT A MEETING YESTERDAY INVOLVING MR. CHEPKWURUI AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS?

A: YES, THERE WAS. HE CAME IN AND MET WITH MR. POST OF THE AFRICAN BUREAU YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. I DO NOT KNOW THE CONTENTS OF THE DISCUSSION YESTERDAY, BUT I PRESUME IT WAS WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN UGANDA.

Q: WHO SOUGHT THAT MEETING?

A: I BELIEVE WE INVITED HIM TO COME IN.

Q: WAS MR. SCHAUFLE AWARE, WHEN HE WAS TALKING TO MR. CHEPKWURUI, OF AMIN'S TELEGRAM TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT SUGGESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES SET ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IN ORDER BEFORE CRITICIZING OTHER COUNTRIES?

A: I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE HAD THAT PIECE OF INFORMATION IN HAND AT THE TIME HE MET WITH THE ACTING CHARGE. I CANNOT TELL YOU.

Q: WELL, YOU HAVE IT IN HAND NOW.

A: YES.

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Q: WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT IT AT THIS POINT?

A: I HAVE NO REACTION AT THE MOMENT TO THAT. BUT IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR HAD THAT IN HAND WHEN HE TALKED WITH THE CHARGE.

Q: ARE THERE ANY STEPS BEING TAKEN TO EVACUATE THE REMAINING AMERICANS?

A: I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT SUCH A PLAN IS UNDER CONTEMPLATION AT THE MOMENT.

Q: IS THERE ANY KIND OF AN INTER-AGENCY BODY AT WORK NOW ON

THIS PROGRAM?

A: WE HAVE A WORKING GROUP IN THE BUILDING WHICH HAS BEEN SET UP TO COORDINATE EFFORTS ON THE SITUATION IN UGANDA. THAT IS NORMAL PRACTICE IN A CONDITION SUCH AS THIS. YOU RECALL WE HAD ON --

Q: WHAT AGENCIES? WHAT PEOPLE?

A: IT NORMALLY HAS A DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE, A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THIS BUILDING -- ANY AGENCY IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD BE OF USE IN CONSIDERING THE SITUATION AT HAND.

Q: CIA?

A: I DO NOT HAVE ANY BREAKDOWN OF WHO IS ON THE WORKING GROUP, BUT IT IS A NORMAL PROCEDURE TO SET ONE OF THESE UP. THE LAST ONE THAT I RECALL, MAJOR ONE, WAS THE KOREA WORKING GROUP IN AUGUST, AND THEN THERE WAS THE LEBANON WORKING GROUP BEFORE THAT.

Q: IS MR. POST HEADING THE WORKING GROUP?

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A: THE AFRICA BUREAU IS IN CHARGE OF THE WORKING GROUP. WHETHER IT'S POST FULL TIME OR SOME OTHER OFFICIAL IN AF, I COULD NOT TELL YOU.

Q: WHEN WAS IT SET UP?

A: VERY RECENTLY, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN YESTERDAY OR EARLY THIS MORNING. I WOULD HAVE TO FIND OUT FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION WITH STATES NEIGHBORING UGANDA, SUCH AS KENYA OR TANZANIA, ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN UGANDA?

A: I HAVE NO PRECISE INFORMATION ON THAT; BUT I PRESUME THERE HAS BEEN FULL CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS THAT ARE CONCERNED IN THAT AREA, YES.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY THE WORKING GROUP MIGHT HAVE BEEN SET UP YESTERDAY OR EARLY THIS MORNING, ARE YOU MEANING BEFORE SUCH TIME AS PRESIDENT AMIN INVITED THE AMERICANS TO COME IN AND SEE HIM ON MONDAY.

A: WHY DON'T I FIND OUT WHEN IT WAS SET UP, HENRY.

Q: WELL, THIS BECOMES CRITICAL AND THAT IS: DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATE, AS A RESULT OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, THAT THERE MIGHT BE PRESSURE

ON AMERICANS IN UGANDA? AND, IF SO, WHAT STEPS DID IT
TAKE TO TRY TO COPE WITH THIS SITUATION?

A: I HAVE NO INDICATION OF OUR ANTICIPATION IN ANY REGARD
ON THIS SITUATION.

Q: WELL, DIDN'T YOU SET UP THE WORKING GROUP YESTERDAY?

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A: I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW REGARDING IT.

Q: IF YOU SET UP THE WORKING GROUP YESTERDAY, YOU SEE, IT
MIGHT BE --

A: LET ME FIND OUT WHEN IT WAS SET UP.

Q: ALL RIGHT, THE OTHER QUESTION I'D LIKE TO ASK IN THIS
CONNECTION IS: WHY WAS THE UGANDAN ACTING CHARGE INVITED
IN YESTERDAY TO SEE MR. POST?

A: TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN UGANDA. I HAVE NO FURTHER
ELUCIDATION.

Q: ALL RIGHT. NOW, THE SAME QUESTION ARISES THOUGH THERE
AGAIN. WAS THIS IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE PRESSURE ON
AMERICANS THERE? YOU KNOW THAT THE WHOLE HISTORY OF
UGANDA HAS BEEN SUCH THAT WE MIGHT HAVE HAD REASON TO
EXPECT THAT PRESSURE AFTER MR. CARTER'S REMARKS. SO I'M
TRYING TO FIND OUT IF THE DEPARTMENT WAS MOVING IN THIS
DIRECTION BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OF PEOPLE BEING
HELD IN THE COUNTRY.

A: I WILL FIND OUT WHEN THE WORKING GROUP WAS SET UP FOR
YOU, HENRY; AND I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON WHAT OUR
ANTICIPATIONS WERE OR EXPECTATIONS, OR WHAT HAVE YOU,
YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE.

Q: CAN YOU ALSO FIND OUT WHY THE ACTING CHARGE WAS CALLED
IN YESTERDAY?

A: I WILL ATTEMPT TO GET SOMETHING BEYOND DISCUSSION OF THE
SITUATION IN UGANDA, YES.

Q: I'M SURE YOU APPRECIATE THIS BECOMES CRITICAL IN UNDER-
STANDING THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION HERE -- WHETHER YOU'RE
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JUST WAITING FOR THESE STORMS TO BURST OR WHETHER YOU SEE
THEM COMING AND ARE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM OR

WHAT.

A: I THINK YOU CAN ASSUME WE ARE ACTIVE, ALERT AND CONCERNED.

Q: IN YOUR ACTIVE PURSUIT OF FREEING THE MISSIONARIES, ARE YOU CONSIDERING SENDING AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE THERE? HAS UGANDA ASKED -- IN OTHER WORDS, ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW THE BRITISH PATTERN? IS THERE ANY INDICATION YET THAT AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL WOULD GO THERE AND LISTEN TO THE PRESIDENT'S CHARGES AND TRY TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICANS?

A: I HAVE NO INDICATION OF THAT WHATSOEVER.

Q: I'M STILL NOT CLEAR ON THE MEETING WITH SCHAUFLE. WAS MR. SCHAUFLE GIVEN ANY ASSURANCE THAT AMERICANS WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE?

A: DICK, I AM SORRY. I DO NOT HAVE ANY KIND OF REACTIONS FROM THE UGANDAN IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S EXPRESSION OF STRONGEST CONCERNS. I HAVE NO REACTION WHATSOEVER. I WILL TRY TO GET THAT, BUT --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION FROM SCHAUFLE TO THE UGANDAN'S REACTION? WAS HE SATISFIED WITH THE MEETING? DID HE FEEL THAT IT ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING? WAS IT FRUITFUL?

A: I CANNOT REALLY EXPAND ON THAT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE REPORT FROM NAIROBI THAT A CUBAN MILITARY TEAM ARRIVED IN UGANDA EARLY THIS WEEK?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.
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Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SOVIET-CZECH-CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN UGANDA?

A: NOTHING. I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I CANNOT OFFER YOU ANYTHING.

Q: FRED, IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION OF BRINGING THIS MATTER BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS?

A: WE HAVE SAID THAT WE WOULD CERTAINLY PARTICIPATE IN THE BRITISH EFFORTS TO HAVE THE UN COMMISSION -- OR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA -- LOOK INTO THE MATTER. BEYOND THAT, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT STEPS ARE BEING CONSIDERED WITH REGARD TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q: WHAT ABOUT GOING TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY?

A: SORRY.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE U.S. GOING, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH A FRIEND, TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND RAISING THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE?

A: I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THAT IS BEING CONSIDERED.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON HOW THE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA COMPARE TO THE NUMBERS OF OTHER NON-UGANDANS, OTHER EUROPEANS?

A: I HAVE NO BREAKDOWN OF FIGURES FOR OTHER NATIONALITIES LIVING IN UGANDA.

Q: FRED, IS IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO YOU THAT THE AMERICANS CANNOT LEAVE BEFORE THIS MEETING?

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A: ALL WE KNOW IS THE PROCLAMATION PUT OUT BY THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT, AND WE JUST SAW THE TEXT ON FBIS OF THE TELEGRAPHIC LETTER SENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

SO THAT IS WHAT WE KNOW AS OF NOW, BUT THIS HAS ALL HAPPENED IN THE LAST FIVE OR SIX HOURS SO I CANNOT OFFER YOU MORE AT THE MOMENT.

Q: CAN YOU AMPLIFY FOR US WHAT IT IS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED ABOUT? IS IT CONCERNED THAT AMERICANS CAN'T LEAVE UGANDA UNTIL --

A: WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF OUR CITIZENS RESIDENT IN THAT COUNTRY.

Q: FRED, HAS THERE BEEN ANY INDICATION THAT ANY AMERICANS HAVE, IN FACT, TRIED TO LEAVE AND HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM LEAVING?

A: I HAVE NO SUCH INDICATION, CHRIS.

Q: FRED, IT IS THE CASE, IS IT NOT, WHEN WE CLOSED THE EMBASSY, AMERICANS RESIDENT IN UGANDA WERE ADVISED TO LEAVE?

A: YES, THEY WERE.

Q: HAS THAT ADVICE BEEN REPEATED, OR WAS IT JUST A ONE-TIME --

A: WELL, IT WAS MADE CLEAR IN NOVEMBER 1973 WHEN WE CLOSED

OUR EMBASSY THAT AMERICANS RESIDENT THERE SHOULD LEAVE,
AND I PRESUME SOME DID LEAVE SUBSEQUENTLY.

Q: I MEAN, AS EVENTS DEVELOPED, HAVE WE EVER SAID IT TO
THEM AGAIN?
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A: I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

Q: FRED, IN LIGHT OF THE CHARGE IN THIS TELEGRAM TO PRESI-
DENT CARTER --

A: YES.

Q: -- THAT THE UNITED STATES, AMONG OTHERS, IS PREPARING
TO INVADE UGANDA, IS IT NOT SEEN AS SOMETHING MORE THAN A
FRIVOLOUS CHARGE? IS IT NOT SOMETHING THAT ORDINARILY
WOULD PROVOKE BREAKING, TOTAL BREAKING, OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND THAT COUNTRY?

A: I THINK, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS LETTER TO THE
PRESIDENT HAS JUST ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON, I'M REALLY NOT IN
A POSITION TO OFFER YOU ANY KIND OF ASSESSMENT OF IT, OR
TRY TO PREDICT WHAT OUR REACTION WOULD BE TO ITS CON-
TENTS. I THINK IT'S A BIT EARLY TO DO THAT.

Q: HOW DID THE LETTER GET HERE?

A: I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT HAS BEEN ON FBIS, AND THEREFORE,
CERTAINLY PEOPLE ARE HAVING A CHANCE TO READ IT. WHETHER
OR NOT THE LETTER PHYSICALLY WAS DELIVERED --

Q: I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER IT WAS BROADCAST OR DID THIS
ACTING CHARGE BRING IT IN THIS MORNING TO AMBASSADOR
SCHAUFELER?

A: I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q: WHAT HAVE YOU SAID PREVIOUSLY ABOUT SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS
IN RECENT DAYS ALLEGING AMERICAN PLANS TO INVADE UGANDA
OR TAKE PARATROOPERS IN --

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A: I WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, ABOUT
SOMEHOW AN ANGLO-ISRAELI-AMERICAN PLAN TO DROP PARA-
TROOPERS INTO UGANDA, AND I CHARACTERIZED IT AS ABSURD.
I THINK SIMILAR TERMS WERE USED BY OTHERS IN REACTING TO
THAT ALLEGATION.

Q: FOR THE RECORD, IN THIS TASK FORCE, IS THERE MUCH DISCUSSION ABOUT WAYS OF INSURING THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS?

A: "WORKING GROUP," ERNIE. I CAN'T GO INTO THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF THAT PARTICULAR GROUP. IT'S SET UP TO COORDINATE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION. BEYOND THAT, I DON'T THINK I CAN GO INTO DETAIL.

Q: DO YOU HAVE PARALLEL INFORMATION HERE ON U.S. NAVAL DISPOSITIONS IN THE AREA?

A: I HAVE NOTHING BEYOND WHAT THE DOD COULD GIVE YOU. THAT'S THEIR BAILIWICK.

Q: IS THERE A LIST OF AMERICANS THERE?

A: WHAT LISTS WE HAVE ARE NOT PERFECT. WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO GET, AS I SAID, MORE INFORMATION ON PEOPLE WHO MAY STILL BE THERE, AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO MAY STILL BE THERE, THROUGH THE FRG. SO WHAT LIST WE HAVE IN EXISTENCE AT THE MOMENT IS NOT COMPLETELY ACCURATE.

Q: THE AMERICANS WHO ARE PRESENT THERE, ARE MOSTLY IN THE BUSH, AREN'T THEY?

A: I THINK THEY ARE SCATTERED ABOUT THE COUNTRY, YES.

Q: WILL YOU BE ABLE TO GET FOR US THIS AFTERNOON WHAT THE UGANDANS DID TELL SCHAUFELER?
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A: I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN GET ON THAT, BUT I'M NOT HOPEFUL THAT I WILL GET A PRECISE READOUT OF WHAT THE ACTING CHARGE SAID.

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM OR DENY THE STORY THAT THEY ARE SAYING THAT AMIN SAYS HE SIMPLY WANTS TO REASSURE THE PEOPLE, AND THEY WILL BE FREE TO LEAVE AFTER THE MONDAY MEETING?

A: I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN GET.

Q: DID YOU CONSULT ANY COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF UGANDA?

A: I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY MORE DETAILS ON WHOM WE HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH ON THAT. I CAN'T HELP YOU.

ANYTHING ELSE ON UGANDA?

Q: HOW MANY PHONE CALLS HAVE YOU RECEIVED FROM FAMILIES OF PEOPLE OVER THERE, OR WHAT KIND OF PERSONAL CONTACT HAS COME FROM AMERICANS CONCERNED ABOUT RELATIVES ABROAD?

A: WELL, I KNOW IN OUR OFFICE, THE PRESS OFFICE, WE HAVE HAD DOZENS, IF NOT HUNDREDS, OF PHONE CALLS IN THE LAST SIX HOURS; AND I AM SURE OTHER OFFICES IN THE BUILDING, SUCH AS SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS AND THE AFRICAN BUREAU, HAVE ALSO RECEIVED CALLS FROM PEOPLE CONCERNED. I CAN'T GIVE YOU A NUMBER, BUT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF INTEREST AND CONCERN.

Q: WHAT ARE YOU TELLING THEM?

A: JUST ABOUT WHAT WE'VE TOLD YOU, NAMELY, THAT WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN, STAYING IN CONTACT THROUGH THE FRG WITH THE SITUATION, AND THAT'S ABOUT IT. BASICALLY, WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU, ALTHOUGH I'VE TOLD YOU IN SOMEWHAT MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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DETAIL.

Q: FRED, I DO HAVE THIS GENERAL REQUEST. WILL IT NOT BE POSSIBLE THIS AFTERNOON TO GET SOME MORE BASIC, FACTUAL INFORMATION. WE'VE GOT DOZENS OF POINTS RAISED HERE ON WHICH WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT ANYTHING.

A: WELL, IN MOST CASES THAT IS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

Q: ALSO, I REALIZE YOU HAVE TAKEN A NUMBER OF THESE QUESTIONS, BUT WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF BLANKS HERE ON WHO HAS BEEN SEEING WHOM AND WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN SAYING. IS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO PULL SOME OF THIS TOGETHER?

A: I'LL TRY TO DO WHAT I CAN ON THAT, BUT I THINK YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF WHAT WE CAN MAKE PUBLIC AND WHAT WE GENERALLY DON'T CHOOSE TO MAKE PUBLIC, MURREY. WE'LL GET YOU EVERYTHING WE CAN, FACTUALLY, IF THAT IS POSSIBLE, WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION. BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS, NORMALLY, AS YOU WELL KNOW, THAT WE DON'T GO INTO. FOR INSTANCE, I'M NOT GOING INTO THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP. I MEAN, THAT IS SOMETHING WE DON'T OUTLINE FOR YOU. WE'LL GET YOU WHAT WE CAN, AND I'LL TRY TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE.

Q: YES, BUT YOU HAVE LEFT US WITH A COMPLETE BLANK HERE, REALLY, SO FAR AS WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING TO AMERICANS IN UGANDA SINCE NOVEMBER OF 1973. THERE SURELY IS INFORMATION IN THIS DEPARTMENT ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON THERE DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, SINCE THE ENTEBBE RAID. WE

ARE REALLY JUST BEREFT HERE OF NORMAL BASIC INFORMATION.

A: I DON'T THINK INFORMATION IS VERY EASY TO COME BY IN

UGANDA. THAT SEEMS TO BE RATHER OBVIOUS. HAVING NO
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AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION PRESENT IN KAMPALA MAKES IT
VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO GET A FIRST-HAND APPRAISAL.
EVERYTHING WE DO IS THROUGH THE FRG EMBASSY THERE, AND WE
ARE DEPENDENT, TO A LARGE EXTENT, ON THE INFORMATION WE
GET FROM THEM INDIRECTLY. I REALLY THINK THERE HAS NOT
BEEN MUCH COMING OUT OF UGANDA IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS,
AND CERTAINLY NOT THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS -- VERY LITTLE
IN THE WAY OF HARD INFORMATION.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO COMPILE IN-
FORMATION ABOUT THE AMERICANS LIVING THERE?

A: WE HAVE TRIED TO KEEP TRACK, AS BEST WE CAN, OF THE
AMERICAN CITIZENS IN UGANDA THROUGH THE FRG EMBASSY. WE
HAVE HAD THAT VERY MUCH ON OUR MIND. IT IS A SUBJECT OF
CONCERN. THAT'S ONE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND WE HAVE
BEEN MAKING AN EFFORT TO DO THAT.

ANYTHING ELSE ON UGANDA?

Q: YES. YOU SAID THE GROUP CONTAINED PROTESTANT AND
CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES.

A: YES.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF, OR ARE THERE ANY AMERICAN
JEWS LEFT IN THAT 240 GROUP?

A: I DON'T HAVE A CLUE ON THAT.

Q: SOME MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
THIS MORNING HAVE EXPRESSED A RETICENCE TO COMMENT ON THE
UGANDAN SITUATION AFTER BEING ADVISED THAT ANY COMMENTS
MADE NOW WOULD PERHAPS "ROCK THE BOAT." DID THAT ADVICE
TO THOSE SENATORS COME FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

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A: I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY RECEIVED THAT NOTION.

Q: DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR AMERICANS, AND
EVEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, TO REFRAIN FROM ANY KIND OF
COMMENTS WHICH MIGHT FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION UNTIL
MONDAY?

A: I THINK THAT WOULD BE ADVISABLE, AND I THINK NOTHING I
HAVE SAID HERE TODAY IS INFLAMMATORY AT ALL. I'M TRYING

TO GIVE YOU A SITUATION REPORT ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED,
BECAUSE I KNOW IT IS OF INTENSE INTEREST, AS I SAY,
JUDGING FROM THE NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS WE HAVE GOTTEN. I
THINK NOTHING I HAVE SAID THIS MORNING IS TO BE INTERPRETED
AS IN THE SLIGHTEST INFLAMMATORY OR UPSETTING.

Q: WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT AWARE OF WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER
WAS GOING TO SAY BEFORE HE SAID IT?

A: WHEN?

Q: AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

A: THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T CHECK WITH US EVERY TIME HE FRAMES
HIS REPLIES TO QUESTIONS.

Q: HAVE YOU BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MR. ANDREW YOUNG WITH
REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE SITUATIONS IN
UGANDA URGING HIM NOT TO MAKE ANY COMMENT?

A: I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INDICATION THAT -- HAD ANY KIND OF
COMMUNICATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON THAT KIND OF THING.
OBVIOUSLY, OUR REPRESENTATION IN THE U.N. IS AN IMPORTANT
PART OF HOW WE WOULD MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN ON THIS SUBJECT,
AND I FEEL SURE AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS FULLY INFORMED AS TO
WHAT'S GOING ON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE044115
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197702100/baaaevik.tel
Line Count: 682
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d4f1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 13
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3234272
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 25
TAGS: PFOR, US, GE, UG
To: ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d4f1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009